Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERN 00739 161056Z

11
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 A-01 OPR-01 SY-04 SSO-00

NSCE-00 CCO-00 NSC-05 EB-07 (ISO) W
---------- 067962
O 161000Z FEB 75 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 275
USMISSION GENEVA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 0739

BONN AND GENEVA FOR S/S

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)
SUBJ: SECVISIT: LUCHSINGER MEETING

REF: AQABA 0008

FOLLOWING AS REQUESTED REFTEL IS INFO FOR SECRETARY'S BACKGOUNDER WITH FRED LUCHSINGER SCHEDULED FOR 1600 FEBRUARY 17 IN GENEVA.

1. DR. FRED LUCHSINGER, AS CHIEF EDITOR NEUE ZUICHER ZEITUNG (NZZ), HEADS AND MAINTAINS FIRM EDITORIAL CONTROL OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING PAPERS, WITH INFLUENCE EXTENDING FAR BEYOND SWITZERLAND'S BORDERS.

2. EVEN WHEN TRANS-ATLANTIC RELATIONS WERE SERIOUSLY STRAINED, THE NZZ MAINTAINED ITS BALANCED AND OBJECTIVE POINT OF VIEW. LUCHSINGER PERSONALLY HAS DEMONSTRATED REPEATEDLY THAT HE UNDER-STANDS AND SYMPATHIZES WITH THE U.S. LAST MONTH, WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER GRABER JOINED HIS VOICE TO THE CHORUS OF CRITICISM OF THE SECRETARY'S "STRANGULATION" REMARKS IN BUSINESS WEEK, LUCHSINGER TOOK THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO TASK IN A SIGNED EDITORIAL AND PLACED THE SECRETARY'S COMMENTS IN THEIR PROPER CONTEXT. THIS RATHER UNUSUAL DISPLAY OF INTRA-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BERN 00739 161056Z

SWISS STRIFE WAS WIDELY COMMENTED ON AT THE TIME AND THE SECRETARY

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

MAY WISH TO EXPRESS HIS APPRECIATION.

3. WE ASSUME THAT LUCHSINGER WILL BE MOST INTERESTED IN A TOUR D'HORIZON, TOUCHING THE MIDDLE EAST, CYPRUS, US RELATIONS WITH THE USSR AND WITH CHINA, AND THE TRANS-ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP. WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFIC POINTS, THE FOLLOWING MAY BE RAISED:

A. WHILE THE NZZ HAS APPLAUDED OSTPOLITIK AND EFFORTS TO REACH A SALT AGREEMENT, LUCHINGER REMAINS SCEPTICAL OF CERTAIN ASPECTS OF DETENTE. LUCHSINGER MAY EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT AGREEING TOO QUICKLY TO SOVIET CONDITIONS FOR A SUMMIT MEETING TO CONCLUDE THE CSCE. THE SECRETARY MAY WISH TO ASSURE HIM ON THIS POINT.

B. LUCHSINGER AND THE NZZ ARE ON RECORD AS FAVORING A STRONG U.S. MILITARY POSTURE IN EUROPE. HE MAY INQUIRE ABOUT MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, AND PROSPECTS FOR A REVIVAL OF THE MANSFIELD AMENDMENT.

C. LUCHSINGER HAS BEEN CONCERNED IN THE PAST ABOUT US-EUROPEAN CONSULTATIONS, FULLY RECOGNIZING THE DIFFICULTIES OF ACHIEVING RECIPROCITY WITH THE FRANCE OF JOBERT. MORE RECENT EDITORIALS SHOW THAT HE IS NOT ONLY MUCH MORE SATISFIED WITH THE FRANCE OF GISCARD AND THE FRG OF SCHMIDT, BUT THAT HE IS COMFORTABLE WITH THE CURRENT TONE OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC DIALGUE. THE SECRETARY MAY WANT TO DISCUSS HOW THIS CHANGE WAS BROUGHT ABOUT AND PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT.

D. SWITZERLAND'S JOINING OF THE IEA IS PROBABLY ITS MOST SIGNIFICANT RECENT UNDERTAKING IN FOREIGN POLICY, WITH POSSIBLY MOMENTOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR ITS TRADITIONAL NEUTRALITY POLICY. WHILE THIS IS FULLY UNDERSTOOD BY THE SWISS ESTABLISHMENT IT REMAINS A SENSITIVE POINT SINCE THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE HAS NOT REALLY DIGESTED THE IMPORTANCE OF SWITZERLAND'S STEP. LUCHSINGER WILL UNDOUBTEDLY WISH TO HEAR ABOUT LIKELY FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN WESTERN OIL STRATEGY, INCLUDING REACTIONS TO US PRICE STABILIZATION PROPOSAL AND MOVEMENT TOWARD A PRODUCER/CONSUMER CONFERENCE. THE SECRETARY MAY WISH TO ASSURE LUCHSINGER THAT WE ARE NOT MOVING TOWARD A POLICY OF CONFRONTATION.
CONFIDENTIAL

E. SWISS BANKS AND INDUSTRY HAVE RECENTLY BECOME CONCERNED AT THE STRENGTH OF THE SWISS FRANC AGAINST THE DOLLAR AND ALL OTHER CURRENCIES AS RESULT CAPITAL INFLOWS AND HARMFUL EFFECT THIS HAS ON EXPORTS, TOURISM, AND JOBS. LUCHSINGER IS UNLIKELY TO RAISE ANY DETAILED MONETARY QUESTION BUT MIGHT ASK FOR GENERAL COMMENT ON GAMUT OF ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FACING INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES. THE SECRETARY MIGHT WANT TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

FOR ACTIVE SWISS ROLE IN HELPING TO DEVELOP THE OECD
SOLIDARITY FUND AND IN INCREASING RESORUCES RPOVIDED TO
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.
(SWITZERLAND IS UNLIKELY JOIN THE IMF SOON BUT HAS RECENTLY
ESTABLISHED CLOSER DE FACTO RELATIONS.)

F. A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF CONTROVERSY HAS BEEN GENERATED RECENTLY BY
AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE PETER DOMINICK'S STATEMENT TO THE SWISS PRESS
IN WASHINGTON THAT THE U.S. WAS PLANNING TO NEGOTIATE FOR
MILITARY OVERFLIGHT OF SWISS AIR SPACE IN THE EVENT OF A RESUMPTION
OF MIDDLE EAST HOSTILITIES. THE NZZ EDITORIALLY AFFIRMED
THAT THIS WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH SWISS NEUTRALITY. THE
STATE DEPARTMENT, EMBASSY AND THE SWISS FOREIGN OFFICE HAVE DENIED
THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE OR ARE CONTEMPLATED. SENATOR
DOMINICK HAS SAID THAT HE WAS MISUNDERSTOOD. WE DOUBT THAT
LUCHSINGER WILL RAISE THIS
MATTER, BUT IF HE DOES IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE SECRETARY TO
REAFFIRM OUT SUPPORT FOR SWISS NEUTRALITY AND
FIRMLY QUASH THE NOTION THAT MILITARY OVERFLIGHT NEGOTIATIONS ARE
CONTEMPLATED. (WE HAVE A CONFIDENTIAL UNDERSTANDING WITH THE
SWISS AUTHORITIES ON U.S. MILITARY OVERFLIGHT WHICH IS FULLY
CONSISTENT WITH SWISS NEUTRALITY POLICY).

G. SENATOR DOMINICK'S NOMINATION HAS GENERALLY GOTTEN A BAD
PRESS. IF APPROPRIATE, THE SECRETARY MAY WISH TO REFER TO HIS
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SENATOR, MENTIONING THE QUALIFICATIONS HE
BRINGS TO THE POSITION OF AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND.

4. BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION.

A. FRED LUCHSINGER WAS BORN IN 1921 IN ST. GALLEN. HE WAS
EDUCATED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH AND IN THE EARLY 1950'S
ATTENDED YALE GRADUATE SCHOOL.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BERN 00739 161056Z

B. LUCHSINGER WAS NZZ CORRESPONDENT IN BONN DURING 1957-1963. HE
RETURNED TO ZURICH AS FOREIGN EDITOR AND BECAME EDITOR-
IN-CHIEF IN 1965.

C. LUCHSINGER HAS VISITED THE U.S. MANY TIMES. HE HAS
DEALT INTIMATELY WITH TOP ADMINISTRATION PEOPLE FOR MANY YEARS.

D. IN POLITICS AND IN HIS PERSONAL MAKE-UP, LUCHSINGER IS
CONSERVATIVE TO HIS FINGER-TIPS. NEVERTHELESS, HE IS DEEPLY RESPECTED
AND SOUGHT OUT BY PEOPLE OF THE BROADEST SPECTRUM OF POLITICAL
OPINION. HE IS POLITICALLY ACTIVE IN THE CONSERVATIVE
FREISINNIGE (LIBERAL) PARTY OF SWITZERLAND. LUCHSINGER IS CHIEFLY
INTERESTED IN POLITICAL AND SECURITY ISSUES, MOST EXPECIALLY AS THEY
PERTAIN TO GERMANY. HE IS PERSONALLY LESS INTRIGUED BY ECONOMIC

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

ISSUES, THOUGH HIS PAPER'S ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COVERAGE IS
SUPERB.

E. LUCHSINGER IS MARRIED AND HAS TWO CHILDREN. HIS ENGLISH
IS FLUENT.
DAVIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BERN00739
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750056-1059
From: BERN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750237/aaaabhsj.tel
Line Count: 175
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: AQABA 0008
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <29 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECVISIT: LUCHSINGER MEETING
TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006